

*A. indicum* (Pajni and Nanda 1989). They mature in the thalamus, thus avoiding competition with the larvae of *Acallopiatus*.

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Agriculture for financing a five year project on Indian Curculionidae. We are also thankful to the Chairman, Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing necessary research facilities.

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### 38. *UVARIA ANDAMANICA* KING (ANNONACEAE) REDISCOVERED FROM ANDAMAN ISLANDS

(With five text-figures)

King (1892, 1893) described *Uvaria andamanica* King from South Andamans based on his collection in 1884 from Port Blair. Parkinson (1923) also included this species in Flora of Andaman Islands. Mitra (1982) cited *U. andamanica* in her revision of tribe Uvarieae for India, only on the basis of type collection deposited in CAL. Vasudeva Rao (1986) listed it merely on the basis of King's report and mentioned that no specimens have been examined from PBL so far.

During the course of exploration of Dhanikhari forest areas in South Andamans one of us collected an *Uvaria* species having unisexual male flowers, which on critical study has been identified as *Uvaria andamanica* King. A thorough scrutiny of the PBL herbarium and recent literature reveals that this species has not been collected after the type collection, though several botanical explorations have been undertaken in all islands of the Andaman group. This taxon is represented by only one or two plants occurring in the inland forest in the vicinity. This report of *Uvaria andamanica* from Dhanikhari, after a lapse of nearly 100 years, with a very small population, indicates that this species has become rare.

*Uvaria andamanica* King in J. Asiat. Soc. Beng. 61 (2): 21. 1892, et Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Cal. 4: 29, t. 25. 1893; C.E. Parkinson, For. Fl. Andaman Islands 79. 1923; Debika Mitra in Fasc. Fl. India 10: 13. 1982; Vasudeva Rao in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 8: 111. 1986.

**Local name:** Deosarai.

A woody climber. Stem 2 cm in diameter, rounded, smooth. Leaves 16-22 x 5-10 cm, elliptic-oblong, obovate, rounded at base, acuminate at apex, slightly incurved at margins, coriaceous, nearly glabrous, midrib tomentose; lateral nerves 16-23 pairs, prominent beneath, stellate tomentose. Flowers solitary or two, c. 2 cm in diameter, axillary, tomentose, red; bracts 4-5 mm long, solitary, ovate orbicular; pedicels 1-1.2 cm long, tomentose. Sepals three, 7-8 x 4 mm, broadly ovate, reflexed at margins, connate at base, brownish, stellate tomentose without, pubescent within. Petals six, 1 x 0.6 cm, broadly ovate, red, incurved at apex, coriaceous, brown tomentose without, glabrous within. Stamens numerous, 3-4 mm long, narrowly elongate, somewhat ovoid-oblong, flattened at base, apex flat, rounded or nearly bilobed (Figs. 1-5).

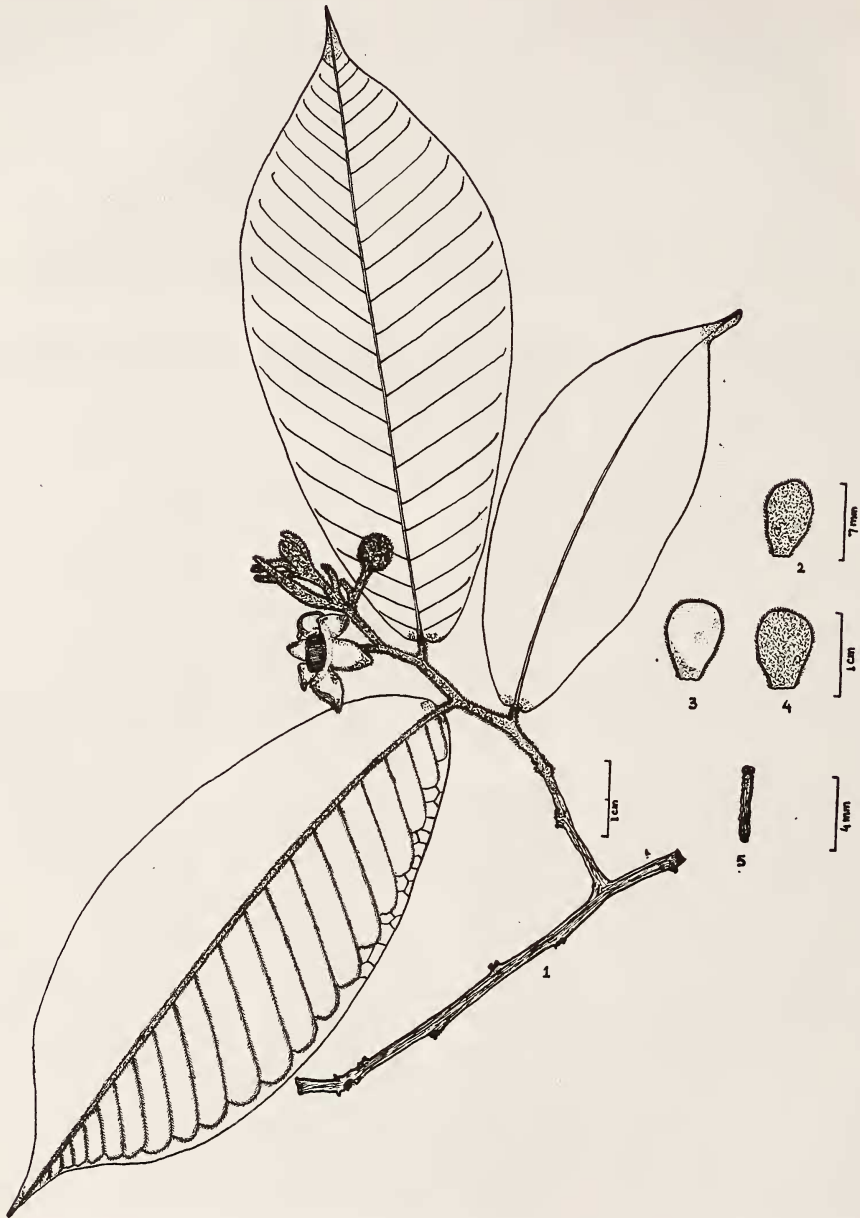
**Flowering:** March-May.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Rare, endemic.

**Ecology:** Woody climber growing in inland forest, epiphytic on *Chukrasia tabularis* Andr.-Juss. (Meliaceae) associated with *Gnetum scandens* Roxb., *Randia longiflora* Lamk., *Areca triandra* Roxb., *Garcinia cowa* Roxb. and *Myristica andamanica* Hook.

**Uses:** Fine twigs of the plant are used as 'Datun' for brushing teeth by the local people.

**Exsicc.** Andaman & Nicobar Islands: South Andamans, Dhanikhari forest, ± 10 m, 11 March 1990,



Figs. 1-5. *Uvaria andamanica* King

1. Flowering twig; 2. Sepal; 3. Petal (inner surface); 4. Petal (outer surface); 5. Stamen.

Ramesh Kumar 14629 (PBL).

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### 39. REDISCOVERY OF A RARE FERN *ARCHNIODES ARISTATA* (FROST. F.) TINDALE FROM KUMAUN HIMALAYA

During the course of a botanical exploration in Kumaun Himalaya, a few specimens of a very interesting fern were collected from Hat near Didihat. After critical study, it was identified as *Archniodes aristata* (Frost. f.) Tindale belonging to the family Aspidiaceae. The collection of this species from Kumaun Himalaya is significant for the fern flora of north-western Himalayas, hence information is provided here on the species.

*A. aristata* (Frost. f.) Tindale, Contr. N.S. Wales Nation Herb. 3: 89, 1961. *Polypodium aristatum* Frost., Prod., 82, 1786. *Lastrea aristata* Moore, Ind. Fil., 85, 1856. *Aspidium aristatum* Clarke, Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. II Bot. 1: 511, 1880 (excl. vars.).

(For description see Jamir and Rao, FERNS OF NAGALAND: 336. 1988).

**Ecology:** An extremely rare fern and is nowhere common in the Western Himalaya. It usually grows on moist and humus-rich dark shaded, forest floor, near Hat at 1300 m, and generally sporulates during the month of August.

**Specimens examined:** Kumaun Himalaya, Pithoragarh district, Hat near Didihat (1300 m), H.C. Pande 24, dated 26 September 1989. Voucher specimens are deposited in Herbarium, Department of Botany, Kumaun University Campus, Almora.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Western Himalaya; rare in Kumaun West, Eastern Himalaya; S. India; Burma, Sri Lanka, China, W. Australia, Polynesia, Malaya

Peninsula and Island, Japan.

The occurrence of this species in north-western Himalayas was reported by Hooker (from Kumaun), MacDonel (from Chamba) vide Hope 1903, and Trotter (from Kashmir) vide Stewart 1945. In 1906 Duthie also reported this species from Kumaun on the authority of Hooker. Recently, Dhir (1980) in FERNS OF NORTH-WESTERN HIMALAYAS and Pande (1990) in CENSUS OF KUMAUN FERNS included this species on the basis of the earlier records. Dixit (1984) also did not mention the distribution of this species in north-western Himalayas. Thus it is clear that none of the subsequent workers could collect this species from any part of north-western Himalayas after Hooker, Trotter and MacDonel. Our collection in 1989 was thus after a long gap. It is in danger of extinction in the Kumaun Himalaya. Therefore, steps should be taken immediately for its conservation. As ferns are very sensitive to habitat destruction, habitat preservation is the only suitable conservation method to protect these plants. Simultaneously efforts should be made to transplant them wherever their peculiar niches are available. This taxon should be incorporated in the National list of Endangered species.

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